



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

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### ***Testimony of Department of Motor Vehicles Commissioner Michael Bzdyra Transportation Committee Public Hearing March 5, 2018***

#### **H.B. 5312 An Act Concerning Recommendations by the Department of Motor Vehicles Regarding the Motor Vehicle Statutes**

Good morning Chairmen Guerrera and Leone, Chairwoman Boucher, Ranking Member Carney and members of the Transportation Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of H.B. 5312.

Every year the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) submits a proposal to the Transportation Committee to ensure compliance with federal requirements, make technical changes to statutes and streamline processes. This year our proposal focuses on customer convenience. A summary of various proposed changes include:

Sections one, two, nine and eleven increase the time an online business customer such as a dealer, lessor or registration service has to submit electronic documents to the DMV after a transaction. This is not only a convenience to our business customers but allows additional processing time for DMV personnel.

Sections three and four eliminate the requirement on customers to return the registration certificates and marker plates when cancelling or not renewing a registration. DMV's online services now include registration cancellation, and proof of cancellation can be printed from home so customers do not have to go to DMV branch to return plates or registration certificates. This change will reduce customers' extra foot traffic and should reduce wait times in our branches.

Section eight, in an effort to provide clarification and create efficiencies for dealers and repairers, we have proposed clearly identifying how a dealer can add property or buildings to its current location without having to obtain zoning approval or amending its current license. Section twelve would allow for repairers that also have wreckers to maintain their records electronically.

Sections thirteen and fourteen clarify prerequisites for reinstatement of an operator after a "lifetime" (third conviction) revocation for Operating Under the Influence (OUI or DUI) and establish that the penalty for certain offenses committed by persons under the age of twenty-one is tied to the date of

violation, not the date of conviction. Current statutory language allows for the unintended result of avoiding penalties by manipulating the conviction date.

Section sixteen provides a structure for school bus carriers who are required to check the DMV Suspended Driver List. Instead of requiring carriers to simply check this list "twice monthly," carriers will now have to check during the first and third week of every month. The intention is to prevent a carrier from checking the driver list on two consecutive days allowing for the possibility of having a suspended driver go undetected for several weeks. This section also calls for the immediate removal of a suspended bus driver contrasted with the current requirement of removal within forty-eight hours which risks the transporting of children by a suspended driver.

Sections twenty and twenty-one would repeal two overly burdensome processes required of DMV during the last legislative session. Section twenty would repeal the process of DMV having to request owner information for vehicles registered in other states to try to determine whether a vehicle is properly registered in Connecticut for local property tax purposes. Section twenty-one would remove the burdensome process of DMV determining exactly which school bus carriers are viewing the DMV Suspended Driver List, which requires additional resources and staffing for the DMV. School Bus carriers are already required to check this list, the burden is rightfully on them, and they take their responsibility seriously. DMV also understands its key role in driver safety and student transportation; however, DMV should not be required "to check to see if the carriers are checking the list to check to see if their school bus drivers are suspended."

Thank you for your consideration on these proposals and the opportunity to voice our support of DMV's proposed bill.